Dear Jm,

11/22/74

It was a short night but the end run around the national desk at the WmPost worked and if the midnight and 1:30 a.m. calls from WmAP are correct, scored as much of a touchdown as a book not in circulation can score.

Only when the paper comes this morning there will be no box for it. That was vandalized while I was making a broadcast by phone just before 11 p.m. This time the cops caught the vandals, whose wreckage was extensive throughout the area. And the oddest thing is that the one who I'd have suspected and who knew it is the one who pk came by while I was broadcasting, told Lil, who told me, who told the cops, and they catch his brother as the ringleader. I can't believe he didn't recognize his brother's car.

So, after the police report I started preparing for this a.m.'s proctoscopy and fortunately had completed the first step (they do it in two steps now if your checkup doesn't include one, the second in the a.m.) and was just finished bathing when Lil called me to the phone, saying it was AP.

If its story is signed, I got the name as Margaret Shirk, who did but was pleasant.

She told me the Post's is a rather big story. I didn't ask by play, length or both. I'll find out soon enough anyway.

What she wanted to do is check each and every quote she'd decided to use, which tells me that the AP's story if not the Post's will be all anti-CIA and anti-FBI unless they find someone else to quote. Well, it took some time because I haven't read the book and haven't read the transcript since I did the writing. I was glad for the blurbing you'll see on the back! It directed me.

I knew Baker's intent because he spent more than two days on the story. Three calls yesterday, the reason I have no snow tires on while the wind blows like a winter storm. And each quote was 100% correct. I think she was troubled by the spontaneous language, which was not grammatical.

She asked me if the was the first time the document was ever used and I replied, "No, Jerry Ford stole it, corrupted it and sold parts of it in 1965. I didn't hear the gasp but I did hear the silence. So I added, "I don't expect you or anyone else to use that." Snicker. Agreement.

I'd not quite fallen asleep when the police phoned with their report. I'll have to decide whether to press charges. Should and don't want to.

Back to bed and can't sleep and at 1:30 Shirk wants to know is these are "minutes." I explain the difference and what a transcript is and she is pleasantly apologetic. I didn't sleep easily or much, I suppose because there may not be a book on sale this morning with all that play in Washington and because I had no call from New York, which made me wonder if friend Martin had come through. Or even if he'd gotten the book.

If the AP story gets a NYC play perhaps a couple of books will be an sale. Lesar delayed shipping the books-he alone had them-until I was there a week ago. He had them before the second Memphis trip. And I don't know why he didn't get around to shipping the art work on the wholesaler's ad. It was done before we left, too.

IN DC, if the printer kept his word and delivered to the wholesaler, the wholesaler's drivers are on strike. We hit it perfectly and perhaps this had to do with my sleeplessness.

I hope the Post syndicates the piece.

Bad part is that this is one of Lil's two away-from-home workdays and I have this checkup for which I have to leave in about 30 minutes. So there will be nobody to take a call should there be any.

AP's past attitude in DC, killing written stories, led me not to think of them. At UPI the new chief has for years been a secret believer. But when I phoned them and arranged for an advance copy they never picked it up.

I am inclined to believe that midnight was rather late to pick up a Post story. The edition has to be out earlier. So, I wonder if there had to be a high policy decision.

Best,